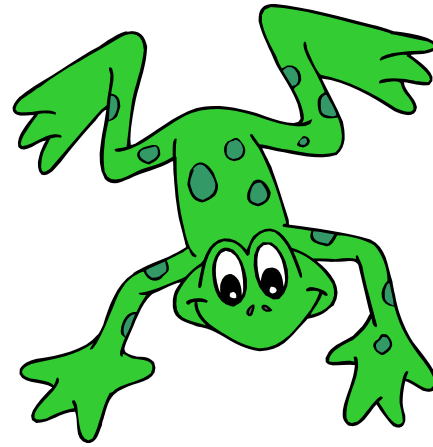


First Grade Leaps Into Learning

December 10, 2010



Reading News

To review what we learned this week, ask your child the following questions (*correct answers provided*): What sound did you learn? (*wh*). What keys did you learn to read (*ed*, *en*, *ell*, and *est*)? Try to list as many words as you can that are in these keys!

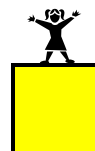
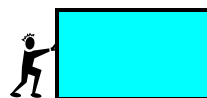
Next week we will work on the letters and sounds for *x* and *v*. That will complete the alphabet! Our new keys will be *ent*, *ix*, *ang*, *ook*, and *all*. The "circle" words will be *three*, *came*, *under*, *soon*, *box*, *fox*, *pretty*, *please*, *four*, *ate*, and *ride*.

It is very important for your child to have an extensive sight word vocabulary. Many common words in English, such as "the" and "one", don't fit phonics rules, so your child needs to memorize them. As s/he gains more experience in reading, s/he instantly recognizes other common words. This makes it easier to focus on the meaning of a passage or story. Instant recognition of sight words will also help your child to become a more fluent, expressive reader.

Math News

We have been learning and using "Subtraction Strategies" to improve speed and accuracy. These strategies are "*counting back on a number line*", "*counting back 1 or 2*", "*subtract all*" and "*subtract zero*".

Next week we will begin working on geometry. Our study will include both two and three-dimensional drawings and solid figures (Math SOL 1.12 & 1.13).



Science / Social Studies News

We began our study of Social Studies Standard 1.12 "The student will recognize that communities in Virginia include people who have diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions, who make contributions to their communities, and who are united as Americans by common principles." This week we learned about the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah and the traditions of the African-American celebration of Kwanzaa. Over 2100 years ago Judah and the Maccabees won the fight for the Jewish people to practice their religion. They cleaned up the temple and dedicated it again to God. The word "Hanukkah" is the Hebrew word for "dedication". This rededication followed the miracle of the oil that burned for eight nights in the temple menorah. Kwanzaa is celebrated for seven days. The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red, and green.

Our exploration of this standard will continue next week as we learn about the story and traditions of Christmas.

December Service Projects at HJB

- **Toys for Tots:** We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys through December 17. The greatest area of need for toys is for children between the ages of 0-2 and 10-12.
- **Non-perishable Food:** We will be collecting non-perishable food items to stock the shelves for the Salvation Army. The last day to send food to school will be December 17.



Important Dates in December

December 14 - PTO Meeting and Chorus Program 7pm
December 17 - Interim Reports Issued
December 21 - Early Release @ 1:00 pm
December 22-31 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

Important Dates in January

January 3 - School Reopens
January 17 - NO SCHOOL MLK, Jr. Holiday
January 26 - Class Picture Day
January 28 - End of 2nd Advisory
January 31 & February 1 - NO SCHOOL Professional Days for Teachers

